

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 14137 291814Z

ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1002

S E C R E T BONN 14137

NODIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1,2,3

TAGS: PARM GW SF

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE SOUTH AFRICAN WEAPONS PROGRAM

REFS: (A) BONN 13580; (B) STATE 195279

1. THE CHANCELLERY HAS REQUESTED COMMENTS FROM THE USG CONCERNING THE WASHINGTON POST AND NEW YORK TIMES STORIES CONCERNING EFFORTS TO FORESTALL A SOUTH AFRICAN NUCLEAR TEST. HAUBER OF THE FOREIGN OFFICE ARMS CONTROL DIVISION, WHO WAS PRESENT DURING THE AMBASSADOR'S MEETINGS WITH VAN WELL ON THIS SUBJECT, TOLD US HE HAD BEEN ASKED BY THE CHANCELLERY TO REQUEST CLARIFICATION ON THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. THE INCONSISTENCY BETWEEN THE STATEMENT MADE BY THE AMBASSADOR ON AUGUST 18 (BASED ON REFTEL B) THAT "OUR INFORMATION DOES NOT SUGGEST THAT AN ACTUAL TEST IS IMMINENT" AND THE STATEMENT BY DAVID BINDER IN THE NEW YORK TIMES THAT "THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION IS CONVINCED THAT IT HEADED OFF THE IMMINENT DETONATION OF AN ATOMIC DEVICE...."

B. THE INCONSISTENCY BETWEEN THE CAUTIOUS

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LANGUAGE IN THE AMBASSADOR'S AUGUST 18 APPROACH ("A FACILITY WHICH APPEARS TO HAVE MANY OF THE ESSENTIAL CHARACTERISTICS OF AN UNDERGROUND NUCLEAR TEST SITE") AND THE IMPLICATIONS IN THE PRESS THAT THE SITE WAS DEFINITELY FOR UNDERGROUND NUCLEAR TESTS.

C. REPORTS WHICH THE CHANCELLERY HAD SEEN TO THE

EFFECT THAT THE USG HAD SHOWN FRENCH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS
US SATELLITE PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE TEST SITE. (HAUBER HAD
THE IMPRESSION THAT SUCH REPORTS HAD BEEN IN THE PRESS,
BUT HE WAS UNABLE TO STATE DEFINITELY TO WHAT REPORTS
THE CHANCELLERY WAS REFERRING.)

2. HAUBER SUMMARIZED THAT THE FRG WOULD APPRECIATE
HAVING (A) INFORMATION AS TO WHETHER THE USG IS CERTAIN
THAT THE SITE WAS DEFINITELY FOR UNDERGROUND TESTS;
(B) AN OFFICIAL READING FROM THE USG ON HOW IMMINENT THE
TEST REALLY WAS; AND (C) USG COMMENTS ON THE REPORTS
MENTIONED IN 1.C., ABOVE, CONCERNING THE SHARING OF US
SATELLITE PHOTOGRAPHY WITH THE GOF.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: GUIDANCE FOR RESPONDING TO THE
FRG REQUEST.
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Message Attributes

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Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 29-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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